

WINGSPREAD

Randolph Air Force Base ♦ Texas

60th Year ♦ No. 13 ♦ March 31, 2006

Quiet riot



Staff Sgt. James Rybacki, 12th Security Forces Squadron instructor, acts as an aggressor during a simulated riot at an annual security forces confrontation management training session Monday. Security forces members must remain trained and ready to control volatile situations and ensure protection of base people and resources. (Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts)

Freedom Flyers reunite today, ceremony at noon

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

The 560th Flying Training Squadron hosts the 33rd Freedom Flyer Reunion here today.

Continuing a tradition that began with the return of the first of the Vietnam prisoners of war to flying duties in 1973, the reunions have served as a vivid reminder that when Americans go to war they do not leave anyone behind.

The base community is invited to a symposium today at the base theater at 9 a.m. where featured participants include both repatriated prisoners and people from the home front of the Vietnam War, said Lt. Col. Drew Taylor, 560th FTS project officer for the reunion.

A formal wreath laying ceremony will take place at the Missing Man Monument at noon, complete with a fly-over of T-38 aircraft in the traditional missing-man formation.

“We’re expecting 25 of these heroes to be here for this year’s reunion,” Colonel Taylor said. “It’s truly spectacular – something every American ought to see. This is a time for us to honor their service and sacrifice, for them to rekindle deep friendships and



A flight of 12th Tactical Fighter Wing F-4Cs comes in low over the South China Sea on the way home from a mission in 1967. (Photo taken by unnamed 12th TFW combat aircrew during Vietnam War)

pass on the heartbeat of an American warrior to a younger generation of Airmen. In all we do during this event, we’re reminded that we must never forget those who could not come back. They gave their all so we could live free.”

Symposium moderator Col. Ken Cordier and symposium participant Col. Mike Lane have a unique

attachment to the 12th Flying Training Wing. They were assigned to the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, based at Cam Rahn Bay, Republic of Vietnam, when they were shot down Dec. 2, 1966. Then-Captain Cordier was pilot and then-First Lieutenant Lane was his weapons system officer in a 559th Tactical Fighter Squadron F-4C Phantom.

Other participants include Cols. Bob Barnett, Smitty Harris, Laurie Lengyel, Joe Crecca and John Yuill. They will tell about their experiences in the North Vietnamese prisons and how they pulled together to “come home with honor.”

Louise Harris will talk about how the wives who waited through those long years of their husbands’ imprisonment were able to mutually support each other and work for their husbands’ return.

Col. Don Ellis, commander of the 560th FTS when the requalification program started in 1973, will talk about the squadron’s role in returning these aircrew members to active flying status.

The black POW/MIA flag flying on the pole at Building 100 today is another reminder of this commitment on the part of all American military people to honor those who made this sacrifice, Colonel Taylor said.

12th Flying Training Wing Training Status												
Pilot Instructor Training <div>As of Monday</div>			Navigator, EWO Students				Wing Flying Hour Program					
			562nd FTS		563rd FTS		Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual		
Squadron	Seniors	Overall	CSO/NFO		CSO		Graduate EWO	T-1A	4941.0	5211.1	10,725	
99th FTS	-1.0	-0.6	USAF	240	OPS	45	International	17	T-6A	8086.2	8065.6	17,196
558th FTS	-4.0	-3.2	Navy	43	Advanced EW	24	EW Course	0	T-37B	2520.0	2503.3	5,796
559th FTS	-2.5	-2.1	International	3	Integration	21	Intro to EW	0	T-38C	4360.6	4585.1	9,937
560th FTS	2.2	0.1	Total in Training	286		90		17	T-43	1761.0	1802.9	3,982
Numbers reflect days ahead or behind for senior pilot instructor training class and an average for all PIT classes currently in training.			Numbers reflect students currently in training. The 562nd shows source of combat systems officer students. Air Force students include Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The 563rd indicates students in specific courses.					The required and flown numbers reflect hours flown between Oct. 1, 2005 to date. The annual numbers are total hours for fiscal year 2006.				

AIR AND SPACE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

As of Monday, 132 Team Randolph members are deployed in support of military operations around the globe.

Time to Remember: Spring forward Sunday @ 2 a.m.



Commander's Action Line

Call 652-5149 or e-mail
randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil



While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better. In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.

When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.

Col. Richard Clark
12th Flying Training Wing commander

Agency Contact Numbers

Base Exchange	674-8917
Civil Engineers	652-2401
Civilian Pay	652-6480
Commissary	652-5102
EEO Complaints	652-3749
Equal Opportunity	652-4376
Family Support Center	652-5321
FW&A Hotline	652-3665
Housing Maintenance	652-1856
Inspector General	652-2727
Legal Office	652-6781
Military Pay	652-1851
Randolph Clinic	652-2933
Safety Office	652-2224
Security Forces	652-5509
Services	652-5971
Sexual Assault	
Response Coordinator	652-8787
Transportation	652-4314

“PROTECT YOUR WINGMAN”

DUI...
It's a crime
not a mistake

Team Randolph's
last DUI was
March 18, 2006

Women's History Month honors trailblazer

By Jerry Stringer
Air Force Print News

She was born an Oregonian. During the early stages of World War II, she was a radio technician for the U.S. Forest Service.

To help support the war, she enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, without any thought of making the military a career. The idea was to help win the war so everyone could get back to living in peace.

She started as a vehicle operator, but there were problems to overcome. She was petite so she had trouble reaching the clutch and brake pedals of the 2-ton trucks. But she made it. In fact, she worked her way to become the leader of her motor transportation school class. Perhaps a foreshadowing of challenges that she would later overcome, spurred on by her "get it done" philosophy.

She was selected for Officer Candidate School, and later commanded a WAAC basic training company and a training regiment during the war. After leaving service following the war, she attended Lewis and Clark University for two years, uncertain as to what to do with her future.

Then she received a letter asking about her desires to be considered for regular duty. She said, "Yes." She soon departed Portland and drove across country to Fort Lee, Va., spending nights in her car because she had very little money. During her first day at Fort Lee, she listened to the bugle calls and "Taps" and thought how badly she had missed military life.

"This former truck driver went on to become the first woman to attend Air Command and Staff College. She was the first woman in the Air Force to be promoted to brigadier general, and the first woman in the Armed Forces to be promoted to major general."

Transferring to the Air Force in 1949, her career continued an upward climb as she reported for a number of assignments at home and overseas.

In 1956, she returned to Lewis and Clark and completed her requirements for a Bachelor of Arts degree. (If you can name this future general now, give yourself an "A" and take the rest of the day off.)

This former truck driver went on to become the first woman to attend Air Command and Staff College. She was later appointed director of the Women in the Air Force at the Pentagon and was extended in the position twice.

She was the first woman in the Air Force to be promoted to brigadier general, and the first woman in the Armed Forces to be promoted to major general.

During her stay at the Pentagon, she



Do you know who this is?

was credited with changing policies affecting women, including, among others, doubling the WAF numbers, expanding women's job opportunities and modernizing uniforms. She also promoted expansion of changing roles and career opportunities for women in the armed forces.

Following retirement, she continued to be out front in making speeches and focusing on women's concerns in the military.

Women's History Month rightly includes this person as one of its "history makers," as does the Air Force.

(By this time, you should know this person's identity. However, if you still don't, her name is Maj. Gen. Jeanne Holm. To read more about her, visit www.af.mil/bios/bio.asp?bioID=5838.)

Congratulations Retirees

Today
Maj. William Knebel
Air Force Services Agency

Today
Master Sgt. Anthony Hardrick
Air Education and Training Command

Today
Master Sgt. Lori Surgnier
Air Force Personnel Center

Retirement announcements should be submitted to the Wingspread office by noon Friday two weeks prior to the desired date of publication.
E-mail announcements to randolph.retiree.messages@randolph.af.mil or fax them to 652-5412. For more information, call the Wingspread office at 652-5760.

WINGSPREAD

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Articles may also be sent by e-mail to wingspread@randolph.af.mil or by fax at 652-5412 or base ext. 7-5412.

For more information about submissions, call 652-5760 or base ext. 7-5760.

Freedom Flyers led by example

By Michael Briggs
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

We hear a lot about Air Force heritage, heroes and the legacy left by those who came before us. We learn valuable lessons from paying tribute to the past.

Some of the accounts that form the foundation of today’s air and space force involve familiar stories about well-known people like John Levitow, William Pitsenbarger and, more recently, Tech. Sgt. John Chapman and Senior Airman Jason Cunningham.

One of the lesser-known Air Force stories equal to any of these accounts is that of the prisoners of war who returned from Vietnam to continue their aviation careers as Air Force pilots.

About 25 of these heroes gather at Randolph today for the 33rd Freedom Flyer Reunion and POW Symposium that has become an honored tradition at the Showplace of the Air Force.

Despite enduring torture and abuse in POW camps, such as in the notorious Hanoi Hilton, these men rose above personal tragedy and, with love of country, soared skyward again in the mid-1970s.

To tell the story of these former Vietnam POWs who returned to the cockpit is to tell one of the most incredible stories of achievement in Air Force history. Their willingness to continue to serve our nation speaks to the quality of the people who give our Air Force its proud heritage.

On Feb. 12, 1973, Operation Homecoming got underway with the mission of repatriating 591 American prisoners of war who had been held captive in North Vietnam – some for up to eight years. While the elation of being free again might have been enough for most people, 150 of the pilots in the group had their sights set on loftier goals: flying Air Force jets again.

Soon after their return stateside in 1973, many of the former POWs had the opportunity to return to their Air Force duties. For some, it meant going back to the careers they had held prior to their captivity.

For the pilots who were healthy enough to return to flying status, the return to duty held the promise of taking to the skies for the first time since being shot down in Vietnam.

By doing so, many had to relive the memories of the flights that led to their captivity, but that didn’t stop them from wanting to continue their flying careers.

The task of requalifying these aviators went to the 560th Flying Training Squadron “Chargin’ Cheetahs” at Randolph. Only three months after returning home, Lt. Col. Bud Flesher made the historic call May 21, 1973, when his aircraft lifted off the runway at Randolph.

“Freedom zero-one’s airborne,” the colonel reported. His flight began the final chapter of Operation Homecoming for the former aviators in the 560th requalification program. The training lasted two years, more than 6,000 flying hours and qualified more than 150 officers again as pilots.

The pilots’ first flights in the training program concluded with a ceremony that should have taken place after their last successful or “fini” flights in Vietnam, had they not been shot down and captured. They were met by their comrades on the Randolph flight line and passed around a bottle of champagne to toast the occasion and pay tribute to those who did not return from the war.

These Freedom Flight champagne celebrations are memorialized in photographs on the walls of the 560th squadron to this day.

In June 1975 at the conclusion of the initial wave of the requalification training, the commander of the 560th FTS at the time, Lt. Col. Don Ellis, spoke about the significance of the program.

“The experiences we shared with the Freedom Flyers made us extremely proud to be associated with such a group of men who represented their Air Force and their country so well,” he said. “Men who came to give – not to take; men who shared with us their memories, ideals, dreams, and goals – and more

importantly, men who gave us a deeper appreciation for our great country and our fellow man.”

Other former POW pilots, who for health issues or other reasons, were not able to requalify to fly with the original Freedom Flyers. To pay tribute to them, the 560th began holding annual Freedom Flyer reunions and a chance for these former aviators to get their “fini” flight in the student seat of a T-38 flown by a Randolph instructor pilot.

Over the years, the reunion added a POW symposium, where the former prisoners of war and their spouses would recount tales of the war, captivity, freedom and of waiting at home for news.

To this day, the symposium fills the base theater, where young Airmen mingle with older veterans to honor the legacy of the Freedom Flyers and POWs.

The symposium concludes with a wreath-laying ceremony at the base of Randolph’s Missing Man Monument, donated to the base in 1977 by the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association to pay tribute to the POWs and those missing in action.

The reunion then moves to the 560th FTS flight line area where Vietnam-era planes are on static display.

The reunion concludes with a formal dining in and a golf tournament.

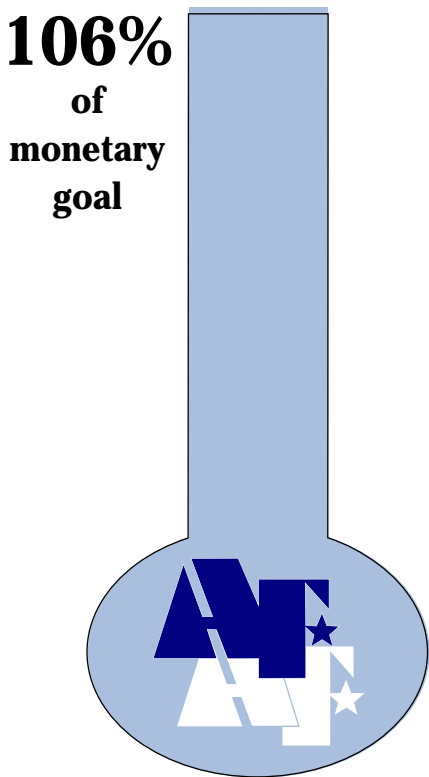
The flights for former POWs ended in 2003 with the flights for Freedom Flyers 192 and 193. While that chapter of the Freedom Flyer tradition has ended, the reunion, symposium and other activities that take place at the end of March each year will continue as long as there are former POWs who can attend – and likely beyond that.

Our Air Force heritage is rich with stories of bravery and triumph. The tale of the Freedom Flyers is one that helps us all focus on the true meaning of patriotism and sacrifice.

It is an enduring tale for us all to learn from as we serve our nation or support those who do. Thanks to the members of the 560th Flying Training Squadron, this valuable chapter of Air Force history lives on to enrich us all.

NEWS

Randolph’s AFAF campaign contribution as of Tuesday



Randolph’s Air Force Assistance Fund runs through April 21.

Hero’s honor



Maj. Gen. L. Dean Fox, Air Force civil engineer, pins the Purple Heart Medal on Senior Airman Dan Acosta during a ceremony in the base theater Thursday morning. The general also presented the Bronze Star Medal to Airman Acosta. The explosive ordnance disposal Airman was injured Dec. 7 in Iraq when a bomb went off near him while on a mission to disarm improvised explosive devices. He and his family are living at Randolph while he goes through treatment and physical therapy rehabilitation at Brooke Army Medical Center. (Photo by Steve White)

Uniform board clarifies hair regulations

The 97th Air Force Uniform Board recently clarified some the women's hair style regulations that came as a result of the board's meeting in October.

The changes, which were announced in February, became effective immediately.

The hair regulation stated, "Women's hair pins and bands must

match their hair color and long hair must be secured with no loose ends."

According to board officials this means long hair should be styled in a manner that prevents loose ends from extending upward on the head.

When using a hair claw or pins, hair should not present the appearance of a "rooster tail."

Also, when hair is in a bun, loose

ends must be tucked in and secured.

When hair is in a pony tail, it must be pulled all the way through the elastic band and may hang naturally downward, not extending below the bottom of the collar.

For those women who have bangs, they must not touch the eyebrows.

All hairstyles must present a neat and professional image.



Hair Do



Hair Don'ts - Rooster tails and 'half ponytails'



DoD working to prevent sexual assaults

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – Sexual assault is one of the most underreported crimes in the military and in society as a whole, a top defense personnel and readiness official said.

"Some studies indicate that only 5 percent of sexual assaults are reported," said Air Force Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, who heads the Department of Defense Joint Task Force for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response.

"The highest number we've ever seen is about 35 percent. We don't know where DoD fits in that range, but we're in there somewhere," General McClain said during the DoD Women's History Month observance at the women's memorial March 21.

General McClain is the single point of accountability for DoD sexual assault policy matters. The task force, stood up in October 2004, develops policy and programs to improve prevention efforts, enhance victim support, and increase offender accountability. A DoD directive on the issue was published a year later and an instruction that expands on the directive is expected to be published soon.

One task force goal was to remove barriers that prevent victims from reporting sexual assault, General McClain said.

"Immediately following a sexual assault, there is an overwhelming sense of loss of control and a sense of powerlessness," she said. "For many, the thought of participating in the investigative process is so overwhelming that they chose to get no care rather than to go through that investigative process."

McClain said sexual assault turns the victim's world upside down and the trauma of being assaulted is a shock from which many victims may never fully recover.

"And the thought that you're going to have to talk to your commander, supervisor, the

SEXUAL
ASSAULT
HOTLINE
652-8787

investigators – all these people are going to know," she said. "That's overwhelming for some people, and they don't want to deal with it."

She said some barriers that prevent victims from reporting sexual assault include embarrassment, shame and not wanting anyone to know what happened to them. Sometimes not understanding the process or misconceptions of what's going to happen prevent individuals from coming forward.

To help overcome these barriers to reporting, DoD in 2005 introduced a "restrictive reporting" option to victims of sexual assault. Victims can come forward and seek counseling and other treatment, but can choose to not have a criminal investigation into the assault opened.

The general said sometimes victims' initial reaction is: "Stop! Leave me alone! I don't want to see anybody! I don't want to do anything!" However, after having time to gather their strength and resources, many victims think about what happened to them and decide to participate in an investigation, General McClain said.

A 2005 report to Congress stated that the number of reported sexual assaults in the military increased by almost 40 percent between 2004 and 2005, General McClain said. The 1,700 cases reported in 2004 climbed to 2,374 in 2005, an increase of 674 cases.

"Of those 2,374 reports, 435 were

restrictive reporting," she said. "So in a six-month period, in a brand new program that was still being implemented, we still had 435 people who were willing to come forward."

Of those who chose restrictive reports initially, a quarter later changed their minds and allowed investigations to proceed.

"Although we hate that we have any sexual assaults, we do think that these numbers indicate that our programs are working," General McClain said. "We're still in the implementation stage, so we're not claiming victory, because we know we still have a long ways to go."

Sexual assault prevention training begins in initial training and continues throughout members' careers. It's also incorporated into commanders' training.

"Commanders are the key to sexual assault prevention and response," she said.

Individuals preparing to deploy also receive refresher training on what constitutes sexual assault, how to prevent it, and how to report it while deployed. General McClain noted that the incidence rate of sexual assault in Iraq and Afghanistan is lower than it is across the rest of DoD.

"We don't know for a fact what to attribute that to, but my supposition would be that in the area of operation you're focused on the mission – quite frankly, staying alive," she said. "You're in a tighter group, a tighter environment with a sense of you're all in this together. We're all family, and we're all working toward the same mission."

General McClain noted that the DoD theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which is April, is "Sexual Assault Prevention Begins with You." She emphasized that sexual assault is not tolerated in DoD.

"Everyone from our most junior member to our most senior member has a role in prevention and response," she said. "It's not a commander's program; it's everyone's responsibility."

NEWS BRIEFS

Circle closed till 1 p.m.

Washington Circle in front of the Taj Mahal will be closed to traffic today until 1 p.m. for the annual Freedom Flyers Reunion Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Missing Man Monument.

Inbound traffic will be routed from Harmon Drive toward the gas station and behind the credit union. Outbound traffic can use the west gate or bypass Washington Circle by using New Street East by the elementary school to reach Harmon Drive.

TMO provides PCS information

Airmen who receive permanent change of station orders are encouraged to visit the Air Force Move Web site at afmove.hq.af.mil to read about entitlements and responsibilities, Randolph Traffic Management officials said.

Early planning is important to ensure a trouble-free move. Moving companies normally need one day to pack each 4,000 pounds of household goods, so scheduling time for this phase of the process is important.

For more information or assistance in planning, call the 12th Mission Support Group traffic management office at 652-1848/1849.

Health study needs volunteers

The Air Force Research Laboratory is looking for 50 volunteers to participate in a study of a special whey protein supplement to see if the product can realistically give a major boost in mental and physical performance.

The protein supplement is manufactured by the GNC Corporation, which sells products in military exchanges.

The double-blind study will involve modified physical fitness and cognitive tests over an eight-week period.

To volunteer, call 2nd Lt. Erica Anderson, 210-536-2348.

Legal office closes early

The 12th Flying Training Wing Staff Judge Advocate office closes today at 3:30 p.m. for an official function.

I Love Randolph Week

April 10-14 has been designated "I Love Randolph Week," a time for units and residents to contribute to the Randolph community.

Vouchers for mulch and fertilizer are provided for housing residents.

Facility managers need to submit an Air Force Form 332, Base Civil Engineer Work Request, by today for any work they want done.

Sod requirements are in addition to other landscape requests.

For details, call 652-3681.

USAF Honor Guard applications

The Air Force Honor Guard is seeking master sergeants and technical sergeants with a line number for master.

The honor guard serves at high visibility ceremonies honoring heads of state and senior military officials, at formal wreath-laying ceremonies and at drill team performances.

The senior NCOs are responsible for day-to-day operations of the honor guard.

To be considered for this 36-month tour of duty in Washington D.C., male applicants must be at least 5 feet 10 inches tall and female applicants at least 5 feet 6 inches tall.

Complete application information is available on the Web at <https://www.mil.bolling.af.mil/orgs/OG/HG/application.htm>.

Randolph, Laughlin senior airmen graduate from ALS

Class 06-3 of the Airman Leadership School graduated Thursday at the enlisted club.

More than 100 guests attended the evening graduation banquet.

Fifteen senior airmen completed 24 academic duty-days consisting of 192 hours.

Among the graduates, four Airmen received special honors at the ceremony.

These award winners are:
Senior Airman Amillia Gaytan of the 47th Flying Training Wing at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, received the Levitow Award as the top graduate in the class.

Senior Airman Amanda Schmidt, also of the 47th FTW, was the Academic Award winner.

Senior Airman Christina Yatsko, 47th FTW, won the Leadership Award.

Senior Airman Valeria Perchina, 47th FTW, was a distinguished graduate.

Other graduates in Class 06-3 are Senior Airmen:

- Christina Arsate, 47th FTW;
 - Misty Atkins, Air Force Personnel Center;
 - Lashawne Burr, 12th Flying Training Wing;
 - Jackson Chandler, Air Education and Training Command;
 - Juan Garcia, 47th FTW;
 - Adam Giessman, AETC
 - Christopher Koper, 12th FTW;
 - Justin Lorentz, 12th FTW;
 - Tabitha McKinnon, 12th FTW;
 - Christopher Patterson, 12th FTW; and Tywana Savage, AFPC
- The guest speaker for the graduation ceremony was Chief Master Sergeant

Rodney Ellison, AETC Command Chief Master Sergeant.

Graduates studied three areas of curriculum: communication skills, leadership and management, and the profession of arms.

The communications curriculum focused on conducting briefings, accomplishing performance feedback worksheets, writing bullet statements, preparing official correspondence and conducting interpersonal counseling.

Proficiency was measured through performance, and the leadership and management portion was measured through tests designed to evaluate comprehension of human resource and leadership principles.

Graduates must achieve an academic average of 70 percent on the two evaluations.

The profession of arms curriculum involves uniform inspections, reveille and retreat ceremonies, drill and a series of lessons on the National Security, projection of air power, national security strategy and terrorism.

Graduates must demonstrate an understanding and appreciation for their role in the Air Force mission.

During the class, the students also helped the child development center remodel one of its areas as part of their community project.

The Airman Leadership School is affiliated with the Community College of the Air Force through the College for Enlisted Professional Military Education. The graduates are awarded nine semester hours toward a CCAF degree.

Place of honor



Tech. Sgt. Peter Law, 12th Flying Training Wing historian, hangs one of the refurbished framed displays of 62 Air Force Medal of Honor winners in the Hall of Valor in the Taj Mahal. This frame includes an artist's drawing of Airman First Class William Pitsenbarger, in whose honor Building 399 is named. He was missing from the original display because his Air Force Cross was not upgraded to the Medal of Honor until 2000. The original displays were hung on Feb. 18, 1981. Col. William Cooney, 12th FTW commander at the time, was assisted by Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Col. James Fleming at the ribbon-cutting opening the hall for the first time. (Photo by Bob Hieronymus)

COMMANDER CONNECTION

This column introduces new unit commanders to the base community.

Lt. Col. David Giachetti

12th Operations Support Squadron

- **Date of command:** March 24
- **Hometown:** Uniontown, Pa.
- **Unit mission:** Maintain a world class environment supporting the diverse flying training mission of the 12th Flying Training Wing. Maximize the training of new instructor pilots and combat systems officers to increase the capabilities of the world's most feared Air Force.
- **Key to success in the Air Force:** Focus on your current job and unit. Commit 100 percent of your work effort to your people and your mission all the time. Take care of your people and they'll take care of you. Balance your work and family.
- **Previous assignments:** 16th AF commander's executive

officer, Aviano Air Base, Italy
Fighter Colonel Assignments chief and Colonel Assignments deputy chief, Pentagon
Headquarters Air Combat Command F-15E operational requirements chief, Langley AFB, Va.
• **Vision for the unit:** Provide world class operational support to the 12th FTW and Randolph AFB, and maintain individual readiness to support the Air and Space Expeditionary Forces.
• **Memorable Air Force experience:** The first night and first mission of Operation Desert Storm. As we flew into Iraq, it was eerily "normal" with cars on the roads and lights in the houses. Moments later, bombs began to fall.



Clinic observes National Patient Safety Awareness Week

Patients take ‘Glo Germ’ test, learn importance of effective hand washing in demonstration

By Master Sgt. Richard Zello
12th Medical Operations Support Squadron

Many people take safety for granted when they walk through the doors of a clinic or hospital. They often assume these are some of the safest places in the world.

Sadly, this is not always the case. But through a joint effort of the medical staff and patients, Randolph’s medical clinic can remain as safe as possible, as was stressed Monday through today, as it observed National Patient Safety Awareness Week.

“The clinic works hard to provide safe care to all of our patients, but patient involvement is key,” said Lt. Col. Carol Andrews, 12th Medical Group patient safety manager. “Patients need to be actively involved in the health care they receive.”

Randolph’s Patient Safety Awareness Week included a number of events including a demonstration of an innovative product called “Glo Germ” to illustrate the importance of effective hand washing. During the demonstration, volunteers rubbed “Glo Germ,” an invisible gel, on their hands like lotion. They then washed their hands. After washing them, they placed them under a ultra-violet light. Any remaining “Glo Germ” was visible under the light.

“Many of the volunteers were amazed to find out they didn’t wash their hands as thoroughly as they thought,” said Colonel Andrews.

After the demonstration, staff members told volunteers how to effectively wash their hands. According to the American Medical Association, effective and frequent hand washing is the single most



A demonstration of an innovative product called “Glo Germ” illustrates the importance of effective hand washing. (Photo by Steve White)

important part of infection prevention. Effective hand washing can prevent many illnesses, including the common cold. The AMA reports that most colds are spread from person to person contact.

In addition to the “Glo Germ” station, patients were also given information about a number of on-going efforts to improve safety including medication. The clinic staff acquainted patients to the stand alone computer set up in the pharmacy lobby for customers to research their medications.

The staff also reminded patients that they must bring a copy off all the medications they are on to each medical appointment. This not only includes all medications prescribed by a provider, whether from

the 12th MDG or civilian, but also all over-the-counter medications and vitamins or herbal supplements.

Many patients don’t know that even over-the-counter medications like Motrin can have adverse effects when combined with other medications, said 12th MDG officials. To make it easy for patients to keep track of their medications, the pharmacy offers a free card for them to write them down.

Another way the 12th MDG reduces medical errors is by double checking the identity of patients before any procedure. These tools along with effective hand washing are some examples of ways the 12th MDG tries to ensure they provide the best and the safest health care possible.

COMMUNITY

SHOW BUSINESS

Group to perform opera, Broadway tunes Tuesday

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

The Great American Voices will be performing "Unforgettable Melodies from Opera and Broadway" Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. at the officers’ club.

This one-time event is part of a national military base tour celebrating the best of American arts by bringing professional performances of opera and musical theater to 39 military installations around the nation.

“The concert will feature performers from the Fort Worth Opera Company, who will sing selections from popular operas as well as from classic American musicals,” said Shelta Reese, 12th Services Division marketing director. “I encourage everyone to come. It should be a great event!”

Ticket prices are \$10 for club members, and \$20 for non-members. Cocktails will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7:15 p.m.

This event is open to all base personnel and the attire for the event is semi-formal. Tickets are on sale now at the club cashier's cage, by calling 652-4864 or 652-7445, or by stopping by to reserve a seat.

This event is presented in cooperation with Opera America and made possible by sponsorship from The Boeing Company.

Thrifty business



Jo Brakebill (left) accepts payment for merchandise from customer Bobbie White at the thrift shop recently. The shop, run by the Randolph Officers’ Wives Club and Enlisted Wives Club, has a donations drop-off point in the back of Building 662 behind 19th Air Force. People can also consign items at the shop Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9 a.m. and noon. For more information, call 658-5990. (Photo by Dave Terry)

Sprucing up

Springtime ushers in need for cleaning tips

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

With spring underway, many people are tending to their homes, cleaning out closets and sprucing up their yards.

While these tasks can be time consuming and costly, several base organizations have services and tips to offer that may make the job easier.

For people living on base, the self-help center has vouchers for mulch, dirt and fertilizer year-round.

“Residents should be sure to take advantage of this offer,” said Frank Speed, self-help center manager. “It’ll really help make their yards and garden areas look nice.”

For those people who do not have the necessary outdoor yard care equipment or who can’t afford to buy it, the base equipment checkout office has items available for rent. Available items include shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows and other yard tools.

Equipment checkout is also offering an April special where customers can rent a lawn mower, rake, electric leaf blower, hedge trimmer and gas

weed eater for \$24 a day.

To help people who are more focused on cleaning out their homes, equipment checkout also hosts a flea market Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the clinic parking lot.

“This is a great way to get rid of items and make a little extra money at the same time,” said Marianne Clark, information, ticket and tours manager.

Another option for people looking to rid their homes of items they no longer want or need but that are still in good condition is donating them to the base thrift shop. The shop, run by the Randolph Officers’ Wives Club and Enlisted Wives Club, has a donations drop-off point in the back of Building 662 behind 19th Air Force. People can also consign items at the shop Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9 a.m. and noon.

Airmen and recent retirees who may be interested in donating unused uniforms can give them to the family support center.

For all other household items not in good enough condition to be sold or donated, perhaps recycling is an option, said Stella Rodriguez, Randolph

Helpful
Spring Cleaning
Numbers

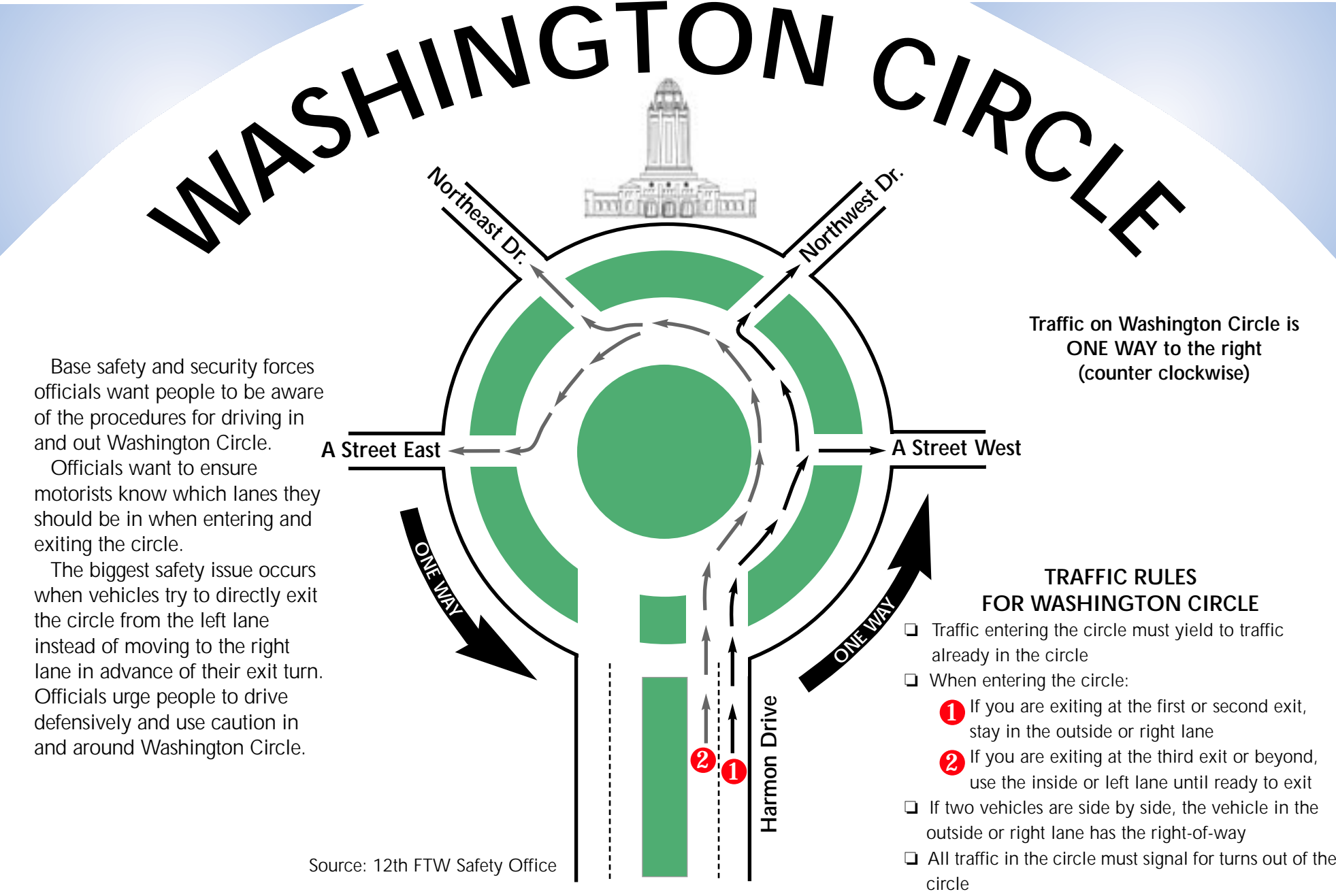
Self-help center, 652-3681
Equipment checkout, 652-5640
Thrift shop, 658-5990
Recycling center, 652-5606

Recycling Coordinator.

A lot of household items can be recycled, such as paper, metal, glass and plastic.

There are various recycling drop-off points around base. The recycling center, which is accessible 24 hours a day, is located in Building 1139 near bargain warehouse and the base stables.

Keeping things straight in





Test pilot Capt. Harold Collins in his trademark white-striped helmet after the first mission to test a prototype aerial refueling system for an F-84 in 1951. (Courtesy photos)

AF test pilot passes early challenges with flying colors

Gen. Collins helped refine in-flight refueling, test flew foreign aircraft

By Bob Hieronymus
Wingspread staff writer

"Any attempt to chronicle the highlights of your career is doomed to failure. Your dedicated service in the United States Air Force has been one, single sustained highlight from the day you were commissioned, in September 1944, until today as your military career draws to a close."

These were the words of Gen. Samuel Phillips, Air Force Systems Command commander, as he presented the Distinguished Service Medal to Maj. Gen. Harold E. "Tom" Collins at his retirement in August 1975.

But if you ask General Collins, he would point proudly to one year in particular as the highlight of his career – 1953.

"That year was a test pilot's time in heaven," he said. "That was the year I set a world speed record in an F-86D Saber Jet and was the first American to fly two different Soviet-built fighter aircraft."

Early days

General Collins' military career began during the height of World War II. He graduated from high school in Port Arthur, Texas, in 1941 at the age of 16 and attended Lamar Institute of Technology in Beaumont, Texas, to study engineering. In February 1943 he was drafted into the Army and attended basic training at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. He was assigned to Fort Sill, Okla., for artillery training.

Then, in July 1943, the Army put out an urgent call for volunteers to fill the ranks of the greatly expanding Army Air Force. The general said he quickly put in for pilot training. After a year in flight training, he received his wings and commission as a second lieutenant, just two months shy of his 20th birthday. His first combat assignment came in February 1945, flying a reconnaissance P-38 aircraft in Europe.

Post WW II

After the war, General Collins was assigned to Wright Field, Ohio, as a test pilot for a variety of new technical developments.

"We had to find ways to extend the range of fighter aircraft so they could escort bombers on long missions," he said. "I often flew as a test pilot for the experiments in aerial refueling."

During World War II, British engineers had developed a kind of probe and drogue refueling system, but it never reached operational status. The addition of drop tanks to the escort P-51 fighters, however, was a decisive factor in the success of long range bomber missions against targets deep behind enemy lines.

Korean War

The fast-changing course of the war in Korea in 1950 brought the subject of aerial refueling to the forefront again as allied forces had to pull back to safer bases in Japan. The fighters available then did not have the range to carry the air battle to the enemy.

"To satisfy the Far East Air Force commander's urgent request, I proposed mounting tip probes on the wing tanks of the fighters," General Collins said. "This had never been done before. I flew all the tests to prove the system worked on the RF-80, F-84 and F-86 aircraft. I was dispatched from Wright Air Development Center to Japan to oversee the installation of the first tip tanks with the probe device for refueling the RF-80s and F-84s."

On July 6, 1951, Captain Collins flew on the modified B-29 tanker-bomber and coached the refueling of a flight of three RF-80 reconnaissance aircraft over North Korea. This was the first aerial refueling under combat conditions.

He was awarded a second oak leaf cluster to his Air Medal for this then-highly classified combat mission because it was conducted over enemy held territory and entailed unusual risk. He returned to Wright Field a month later after training 25 more pilots in aerial refueling.

Because of the success of aerial refueling in Korea, all Air Force fighters today are equipped for air refueling. Aerial refueling is so much an integral part of modern air operations that combat missions are often planned around the refueling capabilities of aircraft and aircrews.

In 1994, in recognition of General Collins' enduring contributions to aerial refueling, Gen. Ronald Fogleman, U.S. Transportation Command commander in chief, renamed the Best Air Refueling Wing Trophy the Maj. Gen. Harold E. Collins Trophy. The award is given annually to the best KC-10 and KC-135 wing worldwide.

Test pilot heaven

The "test pilot heaven" General Collins referred to came in a three-month period in 1953. It began on Sept. 1 when he set a new world speed record of 707.889 miles per hour in an F-86D over a 15-25 kilometer course. That record flight earned him the General Electric Trophy for the year.

Later that month, he became the first American to fly a Soviet-built MiG-15. The MiG had been flown out of North Korea by a defector shortly after the armistice that ended the Korean War. Because the war was technically over, international law required that the plane be speedily returned to the rightful owner.



Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Harold Collins holds a model of the MiG-15 he flew in 1953 after a North Korean defector flew it to a South Korean military base.

"I spent more than six hours going over the aircraft and its instruments with the defector pilot standing on one wing beside me in the cockpit and a translator on the other wing," the general said. "The instruments were all in Russian and the metric system. I marked them with tape so I could understand what they showed during the flight."

American pilots had seen the MiG-15 often as an adversary in air-to-air combat, but these tests were able to confirm the intelligence estimates about its limitations.

"This information was vitally important for training our combat pilots in how to win future dogfights," the general said.

Intelligence coup

In November 1953, General Collins was selected to test fly a Soviet-built YAK-23 fighter aircraft in a top secret project. The unusual thing was that the aircraft had been smuggled out of eastern Europe, taken to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and had to be returned the same way, General Collins said.

The aircraft, considered to be a front-line fighter in its day, arrived in its original shipping crates and had to be assembled under tight security by hand-picked American crews without benefit of maintenance manuals.

"I did all the test flights in complete secrecy," he said.

The YAK-23 was then taken apart, re-crated and returned to the source without the owners being aware that it

was ever missing, he said.

"The intelligence community was able to use the data we developed to determine the status of Soviet aircraft technology as evidenced in that aircraft," the general said. "That was an important intelligence coup."

While flying experimental and test missions were part of his daily work, having three unique and highly significant events in such a short time was really exciting, the general said.

"Was I ever afraid flying foreign aircraft?" General Collins said. "I didn't have time to think about anything other than the mission and completing the test objectives. Many times I would pray, 'Please, God, don't let me screw this up'. I never took foolish chances."

"Everything we test pilots do is based on careful study and planning, and we document our findings. That's the way to become an 'old' pilot."

Clear skies on the horizon

His almost 33-year Air Force career took him from those early test pilot days through a series of assignments in aircraft systems development, including director of flight test operations at Edwards AFB, Calif. Among the many programs he supported, he was the senior officer in charge of operations during most of the X-15 test flights.

At the time of his retirement, he was the Headquarters Air Force Systems Command chief of staff. General Collins currently resides in the San Antonio area.



Air Force Personnel Center’s Marcus Pendleton jumps to block a shot by 12th Medical Group’s Ben Taylor in the intramural basketball playoffs opening game Monday night at the fitness center. (Photo by Steve White)

AFPC flatlines MDG 78-44

By Staff Sgt. Lindsey Maurice
Wingspread editor

The Air Force Personnel Center coasted through the opening game of intramural basketball playoffs Monday night defeating the 12th Medical Group 78-44.

With a mere five-man deep roster, the medics tired midway through the first half, struggling to keep up with the fast-paced personnelists.

“Our game plan was to push the pace,” said Charlie Freeman, AFPC coach. “We were a deeper team, so we used that to our advantage and coasted in the second half. We wanted to push the lead. That way we could rest for the 8 p.m. game.”

The medics hit the court full-force at the tip-off with Mark Keaton, Eric Stailing and Percy Rivera each hitting threes in a four-minute span. Frederick Coy of AFPC was quick to get in the paint scoring eight of his own points in the first seven minutes. With 9 minutes on the first-half clock, AFPC’s Antwon Williams made two buckets and a free throw to send the his team on 24-7 run to close out the half and a 42-20 lead.

“The medics gave it a good effort the

first 10 minutes of the game,” Freeman said. “We couldn’t quite break the game open. They were hitting their shots and we weren’t putting any pressure on them. After we regrouped we were able to distance ourselves from them.”

By the start of the second half, the exhausted MDG roster showed it as they paced themselves down court conserving energy staying outside the paint.

“We knew going into the game we weren’t going to pull out the win with just five of us,” said Duwayne Foster, 12th MDG coach. “But we were okay with that. We were just out there to have fun and play some ball.”

The relentless AFPC team continued to build its lead, making fast breaks and shooting easy layups. With AFPC’s Ian Barta and Williams on the court, combining for 24 in the second half, Freeman rested his high-energy player Marcus Pendleton for the team’s second-round game against the Air Education and Training Command Computer Systems Squadron later that night. Pendleton scored 10 points in the first half.

AFPC high scorers included Williams

with 21 followed by Coy with 14 and Barta with 13. MDG top scorers included Percy Rivera with 13, followed by Ben Taylor with 12 and Stailing with 9.

After defeating MDG, AFPC went on to play AETC/CSS an hour later. While the teams were tied at the half, AETC pulled ahead in the second half, en route to a 40-33 win.

“We played well the first half,” said Coach Freeman. “We were solid defensively and went into halftime tied 17-17. The second half was just as close, but AETC had some crucial steals and offensive rebounds that distanced themselves from us.”

AFPC went on to beat the 562nd Flying Training Squadron Instructors in the loser’s bracket 36-31 Wednesday. They now go on to play the Joint Personnel Property Shipping Office, who eliminatde the Medics 63-34 Wednesday as well.

The 12th Comptroller/Mission Support Squadron defeated AETC/CSS 46-35 Wednesday to advance to the finals. AETC will face the winner of JPPSO vs. AFPC Monday to determine who will face 12 CPTS/MSS in the championship round.

Fit to Fight



The "Fit to Fight" column recognizes Team Randolph members who achieve an "excellent" rating on the Air Force Fitness Test.

12th Contracting Squadron

Terence Balmaceda
Courtney Linde
Audra Novatnak
Brian Sheehan
Anthony Smith
Benjamin Warren



Intramural Bowling Standings

as of March 20

Team	W	L
AFPC	118	74
AETC/CSS	118	74
AFSVA	118	74
SVS	114	78
AETC/LG	112	80
AMO	106	86
DFAS	104	88
AETC/FM	100	92
AFMA	100	92
CS	100	92
OSS	100	92
JPPSO	98	94
RATS	97	95
AFPOA	92	100
SFS	91	101
AFPC/DFSG	76	116
AFSAT	76	116
CPTS	72	120
340 FTG	66	126
MED GP	58	134

TEAM SCRATCH SERIES

Team	Score
AETC/CSS	2904
AFPC	2895
SVS	2803

TEAM HANDICAP SERIES

AFPOA	3209
AMO	3207
RATS	3196
AFSAT	3196

TEAM SCRATCH GAME

Team	Score
AETC/CSS	1031
AFPOA	989
AFPC	983

TEAM HANDICAP GAME

Team	Score
AFSAT	1155
AFPOA	1135
SFS	1122

SCRATCH SERIES

Men	Score
Jim Layman Jr.	723
Jerry Bradfute	665
Gregory McClain	650

Women	Score
Sheila Lawrence	577
Lori Trainor	520
Alissa Smith	480

HANDICAP SERIES

Men	Score
Ken Davis	724
Randy Goodman	706
Paul Polanco	703
Women	Score
Yolanda Strong	689
Josie Ramirez	641
Leilani Hagan	633

SPORTS BRIEFS

Intramural golf meeting

An intramural golf captains meeting takes place Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the golf course clubhouse. All interested units should send a representative.

For more information or eligibility requirements, call Michael Fisk at 652-6609.

Health food and tips

Customers can stop by the fitness center Thursday between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. for complimentary healthy snacks and information on healthier food choices for energy in between workouts.

Golf tournament

Randolph High School’s Project Graduation hosts a select shot golf tournament April 14 at 12:30 p.m. at the Randolph Oaks Golf Course.

Proceeds from the tournament go toward Project

Graduation’s drug free and alcohol free all-night celebration for seniors at the Texas Ski Ranch.

For more information, call 652-4653 or Harley Merrell at 643-9821.

Seniors fitness class

The fitness center offers a Fitness Introduction for Seniors class Tuesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The class includes information on the cardio machines, aerobic classes, small free weights and circuit training. Customers can pre-register at the fitness center front desk.

Sit-up competition

The fitness center hosts a sit-up competition April 10 from 7-8:30 a.m. Participants have one minute to perform as many sit-ups as they can. The first 75 participants to sign in receive a participation reward.

For more information, call the fitness center at 652-2955.

Fitness center holds aerobic, strength competition

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

For those who enjoy an action-packed day at the gym, the fitness center is holding a special event full of exercise and challenges to get the heart pumping.

The Randolph Fitness Center’s Fitness and Strength Mania competition begins April 8 at 9 a.m.

The first event of the day is a four-hour aerobathon from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., which features a variety of aerobic workouts.

“The aerobathon is a great event for both women and men to participate in,” said Rikk Prado, fitness center sports manager. “The event includes everything from kickboxing to step aerobics.”

At 10 a.m., a 5-kilometer fun run and walk starting at the

fitness center takes place. A powerlifting competition also starts at 10 a.m., which includes a bench press, squat and dead lift.

The men’s classes include lightweight, welterweight, middleweight, light heavy, heavyweight and super weight. The women’s classes include lightweight, middleweight, light heavy and heavyweight. Weigh-ins begin at 6:45 a.m.

All of the events are open to Department of Defense ID cardholders age 18 and older. Contestants can register by phone or on the day of the event.

“The competition is a great way to try out different exercises and have fun working out with other people on base,” Mr. Prado said.

For more information, call 652-2955.



Claudia Sanchez, aerobics coordinator and instructor, teaches a kickboxing class at the fitness center. Kickboxing is just one of many events people can participate in at the Fitness and Strength Mania competition April 8 at the fitness center. (Photo by Rich McFadden)